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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 055611

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ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY DRAFTED:DFLAMBERTSON:BCL
APPROVED BY EA/ WILLIAM H. GLEYSTEEN
EA/J - WILLIAM C. SHERMAN
L - MR. LEIGH
NSC - MR. TAYLOR
S/S:FVORTIZ
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O 061629Z MAR 76 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 055611

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PINT, JA, US

SUBJECT: LOCKHEED

REF: TOKYO 3394

1. WE AGREE THAT PRESIDENT'S LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER SHOULD BE DELIVERED BY EMBASSY TOKYO TO FOREIGN OFFICE, AND THAT PUBLICATION CAN BE DELAYED FIVE HOURS TO ALLOW TIME FOR GOJ TRANSLATION. HOWEVER, IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDARD PRACTICE WE WILL RELEASE FULL TEXT (I.E. INCLUDING SALUTATION AND COMPLEMENTARY CLOSE) RATHER THAN MERELY "GIST".

2. ON ANOTHER ASPECT OF ISSUE, WE AGREE THAT THERE IS REAL POSSIBILITY OF PRESS DISCOVERING FACT OF JAPANESE EMBASSY PARTICIPATION IN STATE/JUSTICE/SEC MEETINGS, AND THAT THIS ARGUES FOR EARLY DISPATCH OF PRESIDENTIAL LETTER. WE ARE DISTURBED, HOWEVER, BY POSITION GOJ INTENDS TO TAKE
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WITH PRESS IF CONFRONTED WITH THIS FACT -- I.E. TO DENY

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CATEGORICALLY THAT JAPANESE WERE THERE. WE HAVE EXPRESSED INFORMALLY TO EMBASSY HERE THE VIEW THAT CATEGORICAL DENIALS OF MATTERS OF THIS SORT ARE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO SUSTAIN, AND WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR USG TO SUPPORT. WE SUGGESTED THAT GOJ TRY TO WORK OUT RATIONALE, FOR USE ON CONTINGENCY BASIS, FOR THEIR PRESENCE AT THESE MEETINGS. EMBASSY TODAY INFORMED US THAT THIS IDEA WAS FLOATED WITH GAIMUSHO, WHICH HAS REPLIED THAT "FOR THE TIME BEING" GOJ WILL STICK WITH FLAT DENIAL.

3. SUGGEST THAT EMBASSY FOLLOW UP WITH GAIMUSHO, OFFERING AS POSSIBLE RATIONALE SOMETHING ALONG FOLLOWING LINES: JAPANESE EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES DID MEET IN-FORMALLY WITH STATE, JUSTICE AND SEC REPRESENTATIVES PRIOR TO DISPATCH OF PRESIDENT'S LETTER. PURPOSE OF JAPANESE PARTICIPATION WAS TO KEEP INFORMED ABOUT USG THINKING REGARDING TECHNICAL LEGAL ISSUES INVOLVED IN GAINING ACCESS TO SEC INFORMATION. THEIR PARTICIPATION ALSO ALLOWED US SIDE TO INQUIRE ABOUT RELEVANT ASPECTS OF JAPANESE LAW. MEETINGS WERE AT INFORMAL WORKING LEVEL, CONFINED TO DISCUSSION OF PROCEDURES AND STRICTLY AD REFERENDUM. INGERSOLL

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